



### Why do we pray the Rosary?

It is a tradition in the Church to pray the rosary during the months of October and May. During Catholic Education Week, schools may want to hold a Living Rosary celebration focused on the Glorious Mysteries. Many students may not know how to pray the rosary so this activity offers many lessons.



Have a table covered with a blue cloth in the middle of the room or at the front of the room. The statue of Mary can be placed on the table.

You may want to invite students in the school to make flowers out of paper for the event and have the students place their flowers in vases around the statue or surrounding the table. Every student who is participating could be asked to make a flower out of tissue paper.

Music can be used to set the atmosphere for the event. Songs like, *Hail Mary: Gentle Woman; Immaculate Mary; Ave Maria; Sing of Mary; Magnificat; Mary's Song*, can be used.

# Opening Words of Welcome and Explanation:

Welcome to our Living Rosary for Catholic Education Week. "Long ago when most people could not read, instead of praying the 150 Psalms, they prayed the Hail Mary 150 times. These prayers were in groups of ten called decades, and each decade began with an Our Father. The rosary we pray today has five decades. As we pray a decade, we meditate and reflect on an event in the life of Jesus, Mary and the church, called *mysteries*." The rosary is intended to be a prayer and a response. The leaders will begin the prayer and all of us will respond by completing the prayer. When Mary appeared to Francesco, Jacinta and Lucia at Fatima one hundred years ago, our Lady asked the children to add the Fatima prayer to their Rosary and we will pray it today too. So let us pray.



### The Living Rosary

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of Heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell;

On the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, The Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The Holy Catholic Church,
The Communion of Saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And life everlasting.
Afnen.

#### Our Father

Our Father, who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses.
As we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
Amen.



Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, Now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

(repeat three times)



Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

Amen.

# The First Glorious Mystery – The Resurrection

On the morning after the Sabbath, women disciples of Jesus went to the tomb to finish preparing Jesus' body for burial. They were still tired and sad. They had cried all the day before, because of the death of their Lord. When they arrived at the tomb, they saw that the stone was rolled away. Two angels told them, "He is not here. He has risen as he promised." The women ran to tell the disciples and Mary what they had seen and heard. Soon, everyone has heard the amazing news. Jesus appeared to his disciples and showed them his wounds. What glorious news! Christ is risen and we will have eternal life.

Let this mystery teach us to have a strong faith in God."

### Praying Decade One

Pray one Our Father, ten Hail Marys, one Glory Be and the Fatima Prayer.

### The Second Glorious Mystery – The Ascension

Jesus spent forty days with his disciples. He taught them to understand the Scriptures and to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins in his name. then, Jesus led his disciples out of the city. He told them, "I am going to my Father to prepare a place for you." He spread out his hands and blessed them. As he blessed them, he rose into Heaven and disappeared from sight. The disciples stared at the sky in awe. Two men in shining white garments appeared, saying, "What are you doing? Jesus has gone to his Father. He will return the same way." What glorious news! Christ is risen and has made a place for us in Heaven.

*Let this mystery teach us to hope in God's great mercy.* 

### **Praying Decade Two**

Pray one Our Father, ten Hail Marys, one Glory Be and the Fatima Prayer.

### The Third Glorious Mystery – The Descent of the Holy Spirit

Before Jesus ascended into Heaven, he promised his disciples that he would send the Holy Spirit. The disciples returned to the city, to the upper room where they were staying, praying and praising God. There, ten days later, a great noise and a light filled the room, and the Holy Spirit filled them all with grace and power. The disciples began preaching in many different languages. They told everyone of the great love and mercy of God. They preached about the forgiveness of sins through Christ's death and resurrection. Many who heard them, were converted that day. What glorious news! Christ is risen and has sent the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide us.

Let this mystery teach us to spread God's word in our lives."

### **Praying Decade Three**

Pray one Our Father, ten Hail Marys, one Glory Be and the Fatima Prayer.

# The Fourth Glorious Mystery - The Assumption

Years passed. Christ's Church on earth had grown. The apostles and disciples travelled everywhere, spreading the good news of God. On the Cross, Jesus had said to his apostle, John, "Behold your mother," thus placing Mary in his card. Finally, the end of Mary's time on earth came. The apostles prayed for her as she died, and they laid her in a tomb. Because she was the Mother of the Saviour, and had herself been without sin, Jesus came and took Mary into Heaven to live with him forever. What glorious news! Our Blessed Mother is in Heaven, praying for us.

Let this mystery teach us to follow Mary's example and to pray for a Holy life and death.

### Praying Decade Four

Pray one Our Father, ten Hail Marys, one Glory Be and the Fatima Prayer.



Mary lived her life in obedience to God's will. She was always without sin. She bore the joys and sorrows of her motherhood with trust in God at all times. She is the perfect example of a woman and a mother. Jesus brought his Mother to Heaven. He crowned her as the Queen of Heaven, of all the saints, and of all the Church. She loves and cares for everyone as she loved and cared for Jesus. Jesus listens to her prayers, as he listened to her as a child. What glorious news! The Blessed Virgin Mary will intercede for us, her children, to her Son, our Lord.

Let this mystery teach us to have a great love for the Blessed Virgin Mary.

### Praying Decade Five

Pray one Our Father, ten Hail Marys, one Glory Be and the Fatima Prayer.

### To conclude the Living Rosary use this prayer or another suitable prayer.

#### The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
That never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection,
Implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided.
Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto you,
O Virgin, or virgins, our Mother!

To you we come,
Before you we stand,
Sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the word incarnate,
Despise not our petitions,

But in your mercy hear and answer us.

Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## A number of traditions are included in this celebration:

- A procession/pilgrimage to bring students to the place of the Living Rosary
- Setting up a temporary May shrine with flowers
- Praying the rosary in May
- Reflecting on the mysteries of the rosary
- Singing traditional Marian hymns
- A May crowning placing a crown of flowers on Mary's head during the Fifth Glorious Mystery